

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02

USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02 EB-07 IO-10 /051 W

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R 291659Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4897

UNCLAS ABIDJAN 7494

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, IV, CM

SUBJECT: VISIT OF CAMEROON PRESIDENT PRESIDENT AHIDJO TO IVORY COAST

1. CAMEROON PRESIDENT AHMADOU AHIDJO PAID TWO-DAY PRIVATE VISIT TO IVORY COAST AUGUST 27-29. AHIDJO STOPPED IN IVORY COAST ON RETURN FROM MAURITANIA WHERE HE HAD HELD DISCUSSIONS WITH PRESIDENT MOUKTAR OULD DADDAH. DELEGATION ACCOMPANYING PRESIDENT AHIDJO WAS LISTED AS INCLUDING YADJI ABDULAYE, BOUBA BELLO AND SHEIK SISSOKO OF THE CAMEROON PRESIDENCY. ON IVORIAN SIDE, HOUPHOUET-BOIGNY WAS SURROUNDED BY CUSTOMARY ENTOURAGE OF SENIOR GOVERNMENT AND PARTY LEADERS.

2. PRESIDENTIAL PARTY REMAINED IN YAMOUSOUKRO, HOME TOWN OF HOUPHOUETA-BOIGNY. IN ADDITION TO HOLDING TALKS ON VARIOUS MATTERS OF COMMON INTEREST, THE TWO PRESIDENTS VISITED DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS IN THE YAMOUSOUKRO AREA, INCLUDING HOUPHOUET'S COFFEE AND COCOA PLANTATIONS.

3. IN COMMENTS TO PRESS BEFORE DEPARTURE FOR YAOUNDE AUGUST 29, AHIDJO SAID THAT A CAMEROONIAN DELEGATION OF EXPERTS WOULD SHORTLY BE SENT TO IVORY COAST TO STUDY IVORIAN AGRICULTURAL PROJECTS. AT END OF PRESS CONFERENCE, GOIC PRESIDENT HOUSPHOUET-BOIGNY INDICATED HE WOULD PAY AN OFFICIAL VISIT TO CAMEROON IN FEBRUARY 1976.

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4. COMMENT: VISIT WAS LOW-KEY AND BILLED AS ROUTINE

"MEETING OF FRIENDSHIP" BETWEEN PRESIDENTS OF TWO COUNTRIES WHICH HAVE HAD GOOD RELATIONS OVER THE YEARS. HOUPHOUET HAD LAST SEEN AHIDJO IN MARCH WHEN HE MADE BRIEF STOP IN YAOUNDE RETURNING FROM FRANCOPHONE SUMMIT CONFERENCE IN BANGUI. COOKE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CHIEF OF STATE VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 AUG 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975ABIDJA07494
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750301-0498
From: ABIDJAN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t1975083/aaaaabwo.tel
Line Count: 66
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: hartledg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 FEB 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <05 FEB 2003 by ReddocGW>; APPROVED <23 JAN 2004 by hartledg>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: VISIT OF CAMEROON PRESIDENT PRESIDENT AHIDJO TO IVORY COAST
TAGS: PFOR, IV, CM, US, (AHIDJO, AHMADOU)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006